

Amend the claims in accordance with the following listing of claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 20 (canceled)

21. (new) A personal care absorbent article having a longitudinal-direction, a lateral cross-direction, and an intermediate portion interposed between a pair of longitudinally opposed end portions, said article comprising a backsheet having a pair of laterally opposed side edges; a liquid-permeable topsheet; an absorbent body sandwiched between said backsheet and said topsheet; and a separately provided, singular wing-panel member which is operatively joined to the intermediate portion of said article, said wing-panel configured to wrap about an undergarment;
- wherein
- a maximum longitudinal length of said wing-panel member is less than a maximum longitudinal length of said backsheet;
- a contoured side-edge of said wing-panel member provides a substantially continuous extension from a contoured side-edge of said backsheet;
- at least an operative portion of the singular wing-panel member extends substantially continuously along an entire cross-directional width of a corresponding region of said backsheet; and
- said wing-panel member extends laterally beyond the pair of laterally-opposed, terminal side edges of said backsheet in the intermediate portion of the article;
- the article includes at least one composite transition section which includes a portion of the wing-panel member along with a layered portion of the article that includes a corresponding portion of the backsheet; and
- the composite transition section is arcuate and concave outward.
22. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member is joined to a major facing-surface of said backsheet.

23. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said backsheet and said wing-panel member have been severed in a substantially continuous operation which has occurred after said wing-panel member has been operatively joined to the intermediate portion of said article.

24. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein the at least one composite transition section includes a layered portion of the article which further includes a corresponding portion of the topsheet.

25. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member is joined onto an outward, garment-side surface of said backsheet.

26. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member is joined onto a bodyside surface of said backsheet.

27. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member is joined onto an outward, garment-side surface of said topsheet.

28. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member is joined onto a bodyside surface of said topsheet.

29. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member includes a fabric.

30. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member includes a nonwoven fabric.

31. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member includes a point-unbonded, nonwoven fabric.

32. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein
a maximum longitudinal length of said wing-panel member is not more than about
80% of a maximum longitudinal length of said backsheet; and
longitudinally opposed end-edges of said wing-panel member are non-coterminous
with longitudinal end-edges of said backsheet.
33. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein an overall longitudinal length of
said wing-panel member is not less than a minimum of about 15% of an overall
longitudinal length of said backsheet.
34. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member extends
beyond laterally-opposed side edges of said backsheet for a distance of at least a
minimum of about 2 cm.
35. (new) An article as recited in claim 21, wherein said wing-panel member extends
beyond laterally-opposed side edges of said backsheet for a distance of up to a
maximum of about 10 cm.
36. (new) A personal care absorbent article having a longitudinal-direction, a lateral
cross-direction, and an intermediate portion interposed between a pair of
longitudinally opposed end portions, said article comprising
a backsheet having a pair of laterally-opposed side edges;
a liquid-permeable topsheet;
an absorbent body sandwiched between said backsheet and said topsheet; and
at least one separately provided wing-panel member which is operatively joined to the
intermediate portion of said article, said wing-panel configured to wrap about
an undergarment;
wherein
a maximum longitudinal length of said wing-panel member is less than a maximum
longitudinal length of said backsheet;

a contoured side-edge of said wing-panel member provides a substantially continuous extension from a contoured side-edge of said backsheet;
at least a portion of the at least one wing-panel member extends over a major facing-surface of the absorbent body;
the article includes at least one composite transition section which includes a portion of the wing-panel member along with a layered portion of the article that includes a corresponding portion of the backsheet; and
the composite transition section is arcuate and concave outward.

37. (new) An article as recited in claim 36, wherein
a laterally-opposed pair of separately provided wing-panel members are operatively joined to the intermediate portion of said article, said wing-panels configured to wrap about an undergarment;
a maximum longitudinal length of each wing-panel member is less than a maximum longitudinal length of said backsheet;
a contoured side-edge of each wing-panel member provides a substantially continuous extension from a contoured side-edge of said backsheet;
at least a portion of each wing-panel member extends over a major facing-surface of the absorbent body;
the article includes a plurality of composite transition sections;
each composite transition section includes a portion of the wing-panel member along with a layered portion of the article that includes a corresponding portion of the backsheet; and
each composite transition section is arcuate and concave outward.